

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

November 24, 2015

SUBJECT:

Submission of the South Carolina Community Block Grant for Education Pilot Program

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The South Carolina General Assembly has allocated funding for the SC Community Block Grants for Education Pilot Program (Education Pilot Program). The Education Pilot Program's purpose is to improve children's readiness for kindergarten by enhancing the quality of pre-kindergarten programs for four-year-old children. The school district would like to submit a \$250,000 proposal to include partnerships with Head Start, First Steps, Freedman Parenting Center, and Aiken Electric Cooperative to help prepare pre-kindergarten students for kindergarten. The project will include the purchase of the Upstart program, which is an at-home, pre-kindergarten software program used to give children a jump start on school readiness. The software provides children personalized reading, math, and science lessons with an emphasis on reading; helps parents to engage in learning with their child; prepares children academically for entering school with research-based, high-quality curriculum; and helps struggling learners before they begin school. In addition to software, the program provides extensive support to parents through a learning support team. The program will be targeted to approximately 125 students who are not being served through the District's pre-kindergarten program.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

The Division of Instruction and Accountability has evaluated the goals and objectives of this grant and finds them to be consistent with district goals.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the submission of the SC Community Block Grant for Education and the receipt of funds, if awarded.

PREPARED BY:

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